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PATENT
CASE: LDC-MASK



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION: Hammesfahr et al

Serial No. 09/809,606

Art Unit: 1711

Filed: March 15, 2001

Examiner: S. McCledon

FOR REDUCING POLYMERIZATION STRESS BY CONTROLLED SEGMENTAL CURING

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

This Response and Amendment A in concurrently filed with the Applicants request for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136.

Dear Sir,

In response to the Official Action dated July 16, 2002, the Applicant through the undersigned attorney hereby responds as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please ~~claims~~ 1-25 and substitute therefore new claim 26 as follows:

26. A method of curing a photo-polymerizable composite dental material to form a dental restoration of a tooth, using light energy from a light source, wherein prior to polymerization the composite dental material is placed in physical contact with a tooth to be restored, such that a composite-to-tooth interface is established, comprising the steps of:

exposing at least one selected segment of the material to the light energy while selectively limiting exposure of at least one substantially adjacent segment of the material to the light energy;

wherein said step of exposing a selected segment of the material to light energy while selectively limiting exposure of at least one substantially adjacent segment of the material to the